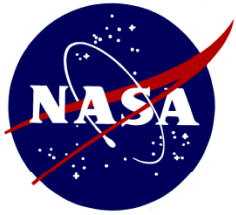




NASA Astronaut Selection 2009: Behavioral Overview

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Background

- Behavioral Health and Performance (BHP) is an operational group under medical sciences at NASA/Johnson Space Center
- Astronaut applicant screening and assessment is one function of this group, along with psychological training, inflight behavioral support and family services.
- Direct BHP assessment spans 6-7 months of a 17-month overall selection process



Applicants

- 3535 applications
- 113 invited to Round 1 initial Astronaut Selection Board (ASB) interview, medical review and psychological testing
- 48 individuals invited back for Round 2 ASB interview, full medical testing, behavioral interview and assessment



Goals and Methods

- Two primary goals are clinical screening and suitability assessment
- Clinical screening is primarily medical in nature, screening for active or potential psychiatric dysfunction
 - Methods: Clinical interview, psychological testing, staffing
 - User: Aerospace Medical Board (AMB)
 - Go/No-Go role



4/28/2011



Goals and Methods

- Suitability Assessment is primarily psychological in nature, assessing for job-person fit
 - Methods: Structured interview, psychological testing, staffing, behavioral observation
 - User: Astronaut Selection Board (ASB)
 - Advisory/consultative role





Sample of Proficiencies

- Mental/emotional stability
- Ability to perform under stressful conditions
- Teamwork skills
- Motivation
- Communication skills
- Ability to cope with prolonged family separations

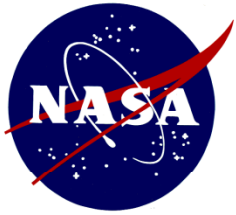




Outcome

- 9 astronaut candidates (ASCANs) selected to start training
 - 6 male, 3 female
 - Age range: 30-43
 - Average over 20 years of education
 - Most married
 - None had interviewed in previous selection cycles
- Two-round approach gave more face time to enable better long duration assessment





2009 Astronaut Candidates

- Serena M. Aunon, M.D. – physician, flight surgeon
- Jeanette J. Epps - technology intelligence, CIA
- Jack D. Fischer – MAJ USAF, test pilot
- Michael S. Hopkins – LTC USAF
- Kjell N. Lindgren – physician, flight surgeon
- Kathleen (Kate) Rubins – biomedical research, MIT
- Scott D. Tingle – CDR USN, test pilot
- Mark T. Vande Hei – LTC USA, flight controller
- Gregory (Reid) Wiseman – LCDR USN, test pilot